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DR. CHAI CHANG CHOI

OCTOBER 8 (legislative day, OCTOBER 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MCCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1339]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 1339) for the relief of Dr. Chai Chang Choi, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Dr. Chai Chang Choi. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 44-year-old native and citizen of Korea who last entered the United States as a student on November 8, 1950. He had previously resided in the United States as a student from 1927 until 1936 and from November 1945 until November 1946. He is a graduate of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., and received his M. D. degree from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond in 1935. He interned for 1 year at the United States Marine Hospital, New Orleans, La. He returned to Korea in 1936 where he established a private practice and in 1945 he was appointed Deputy Director of National Public Health and Welfare under the sponsorship of the United States Government in Korea. He is presently employed at the Thomas Memorial Hospital, Charleston, W. Va., where hospital authorities state that his services are urgently needed.

A letter dated September 7, 1951, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

SEPTEMBER 7, 1951.

Hon. PAT MCCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 1339) for the relief of Dr. Chai Chang Choi, an alien.

The bill would provide that Dr. Chai Chang Choi shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of its enactment, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the proper quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate quota for the first year that such quota is available.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Dr. Choi is a native and citizen of Korea, of the Korean race, who was born on December 9, 1906, at Songdo, Korea. He last arrived in the United States on November 8, 1950, at Anchorage, Alaska, when he was admitted as a student for 1 year under section 4(e) of the Immigration Act of 1924. On March 21, 1951, his application for an extension of student's stay was denied on the ground that he was not maintaining his status as a student. Dr. Choi had previously resided in the United States as a student from 1927 until 1936, and from November 1945 until November 1946.

The files further reflect that the alien entered this country for the first time in 1927 when he was destined to Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., that after graduation from that institution he attended the Medical College of Virginia, at Richmond, Va., graduating in 1935, and that he then interned for 1 year at the United States Marine Hospital, New Orleans, La. He stated that after his return to Korea in 1936, he established a private practice in Seoul, Korea, and that in 1945 he was appointed Deputy Director of National Public Health and Welfare under the sponsorship of the United States Government in Korea. At the time of his entry into this country in November 1945 he was destined to the Johns Hopkins University, where he studied for 1 year. He later worked with the ECA Mission in Seoul, Korea, during 1948 and 1949. Since his arrival in the United States on February 8, 1950, he has conducted research work in the Medical College of Virginia, and he is now employed at the Thomas Memorial Hospital, Charleston, W. Va. Dr. Choi stated that he is classified as a house physician at this institution and receives $50 a month plus room and board for his services. His wife and four children are now residing in Korea.

Since Dr. Choi is of the Korean race, he is ineligible for naturalization under section 303 of the Nationality Act of 1940, and therefore inadmissible to the United States under section 13 (c) of the Immigration Act of 1924. In this respect his case is similar to that of many other aliens who desire to enter the United States for permanent residence but are unable to do so because of their inability to qualify for admission under the provisions of the general immigration laws. The record presents no facts which would warrant the enactment of special legislation granting Dr. Choi any preference over other aliens seeking entry into this country for permanent residence.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice is unable to recommend the enactment of this bill.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

Senator Harley M. Kilgore, the author of the bill, has submitted the following information in connection with the case:

HERBERT J. THOMAS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,
South Charleston, W. Va., September 18, 1951.

Hon. HARLEY M. KILGORE,
United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR KILGORE: It is my understanding that a special bill is being presented to the Senate requesting a change in status for a Dr. C. C. Choi, a Korean, at present residing in this country.

I feel it most important to emphasize the value of Dr. Choi's services to this community and the terrific hardship which his absence would place upon this hospital, inasmuch as replacements for this type of work are almost impossible to find. Dr. Choi is at present in the position of resident physician of this hospital, covering emergency calls every other night. In addition to the importance of this service, his work is of a very high caliber; he is most conscientious and congenial and very well liked by the medical staff, personnel, and patients with which he comes in contact. It is our desire to retain him if at all possible. I, therefore, request that you exercise every means at your disposal to assist us in our endeavor to give the best possible hospital care to the people in our area.

Very sincerely yours,

T. W. PATTERSON,
Administrator.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT,
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA,
Charleston, W. Va., April 10, 1951.

Hon. HARLEY M. KILGORE,
United States Senator,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR KILGORE: Dr. Chai Chang Choi is in this country from Korea on a student visa. He is doing work at the Thomas Memorial Hospital in South Charleston.

I have had occasion to observe Dr. Choi during the past several months. He is a man with very pronounced public spirit and enlightened views. He wishes to be able to stay in this country rather than to return to Korea mainly so that he can bring his family here and have his children educated in our schools. He is a highly educated man, having a long record of university training, private practice, and teaching. In his native Korea he has been recognized by the United States Government as a strong force in the public-health program in that country.

It is my opinion that Dr. Choi and his family would be a great asset to this country as residents here, and if there is a way that this can be accomplished through congressional legislation I would recommend it very highly.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of Dr. Choi's professional record of activities. Please let him know, with copy to me, what you may be able to do in his behalf. His address is Care of Thomas Memorial Hospital, South Charleston, W. Va.

With highest regards and best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

BEN MOORE.

Name: Chai Chang Choi, M. C., M. P. H.
Age: 44.
Address: Thomas Memorial Hospital, South Charleston, W. Va.
Education:

1. Premedical study, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., 1929–31.
2. Medicine, Medical College of Virginia, 1931–35.
3. Internship, United States Marine Hospital, New Orleans, La., 1935–36.
4. Postgraduate study, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., 1945–46.

Profession:

1. Instructor in medicine. Severance Medical College, Seoul, Korea, 1936–38.
2. Chief in medicine, Ivy Hospital, Kaesong, Korea, 1938–40.
3. Private practice, Kaesong, Korea, 1940–45.
4. Deputy director, National Department of Public Health and Welfare, 1945–48.
5. Attended the United Nations International Conference in New York, 1946.
6. Assistant professor in public health, Severance Medical College, Seoul, Korea, 1946–49.
7. Lecturer in preventive medicine, Medical College, Ewha University, Seoul, Korea, 1947–49.
8. Program review staff, ECA in Korea, 1948–49.
9. Research fellow, Thomas Memorial Hospital, South Charleston, W. Va.

Affiliation of professional societies:

1. Member, Board of Health, Korean Government.
2. Executive member, board of trustees, Korean Medical Association.

3. Member, Board of Health, City of Seoul.
4. Chairman, Korean Public Health Association.
5. Member, board of trustees, Anti-Leprosy Association.
6. Committee, medical division, Korean Red Cross.
7. Counselor, Korean-American Association.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 1339) should be enacted.

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